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"To victimize us is to betray the nation" was a slogan displayed by students and Buddhists in an anti-US-puppet demonstration recently held in Saigon

Mr NIXON MISTAKES THE TIME

"WE'VE got another war in Cambodia," said a disillusioned Hubert Humphrey on June 9. The former American Vice-President knew what he was talking about. Having stood by Lyndon Johnson during long years of the hopeless war in Viet Nam, Humphrey is perfectly aware that all the victories Nixon has been boasting about exist only in the speeches and staff reports. Clifford, the former US Defense Secretary, a man also conversant with the situation, said on May 16 that "Nixon is taking our nation down a road that is leading us more deeply into Viet Nam than taking us out." (Reuter)

It is clear that the invasion of Cambodia, the overthrow of the neutralist government of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the installation of the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique, the vee of Saigon and Thai troops against that country, the diplomatic marshalling of the governments of Djakarta, Malaysia, Tokyo and other Asian satellites, are all part and parcel of a long-thought-out plan, a long-term policy. A policy that Nixon has in fact defined in several speeches.

Recent debates in the American Senate have supplied concrete information on the true nature of this policy. It has been revealed that a Thai soldier sent to South Viet Nam costs the American budget 39 dollars per month, and a Thai general 450 dollars. A far cry indeed from US Army figures. At such prices, the maintenance of a few million Asians in arms would cost Washington much less than the least American expeditionary corps. Vietnamese, Thai, Cambodian, Lao, South Korean, Filipino soldiers, and soon Indonesian, Malay, and perhaps Japanese ones, will form a colossal legion, fed, equipped and trained by the Americans, to be sent to this or that country to stamp out hotbeds of "subversion." American air and naval forces will give all necessary support, even by pulverizing those countries' towns and villages, industrial, agricultural and cultural installations. If need be, American airborne units will carry out emergency rescue operations, as has been done in Cambodia.

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In Cambodia
THREE MONTHS AFTER

II.

PRECEDED by the ransacking of the two Vietnamese Embassies in Phnom Penh, the *coup d'état* staged on March 18, 1970 by Lon Nol and Sirik Matak on Washington's orders, might be, to the mind of its authors, a decisive blow dealt at the policy of independence and neutrality pursued over the last 15 years by the Cambodian State and at the effort of South Vietnamese patriots against US aggression. The absence of the Head of State, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, might considerably make things easier for them, everything might be put in order again in a short while and Cambodia would be linked to the chain of US satellites running from the China Sea to the border of Burma. As a psychological diversion move, a big anti-Vietnamese campaign was launched: the radio and the press controlled by the new administration poisoned the Khmer public with slogans which fanned up hatred against the Vietnamese considered to be Cambodia's hereditary enemies. A hunt for Vietnamese residents was ordered: these were either slain *en masse* or put into concentration camps under horrible living conditions until Saigon authorities came and took them to camps on the other side of the border or to the battlefields.

However, the Khmer people, "a people credited with the famous Angkor monuments and endowed with a traditional indomitability,"* have foiled all American plans.

Five days after the *coup d'état*, on March 23, from Peking, their Head of State, Samdech N. Sihanouk, raised his voice. In a solemn proclamation, he called on the Khmer nation to rise up against the US imperialists and their valets and announced the emergence of the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK) and the Liberation armed forces.

Popular resistance very quickly erupted inside the country. In the four days ending March 29, mass demonstrations, parades and rallies often followed by clashes with the Lon Nol troops took place in Prey Veng, Takeo and Kompong Cham cities. By March 31, the movement had gained ground in 17 of the country's 20 provinces. Resistance bases were established and guerilla teams and Liberation Army units formed virtually everywhere, in the eastern as well as in the western part of the country, even in the provinces of Siem Reap and Battambang.

Day by day, the situation has been getting out of the control of the usurpers of Phnom Penh and their Yankee bosses. Furtively at first, openly afterwards, weapons then troops have been sent in from South Viet Nam to the rescue of the Lon Nol clique threatened with an imminent débâcle. From March 28 to April 5, several operations were launched by the Saigon puppet army in the direction of Cambodia. On April 5, a tank-led Saigonese infantry battalion entered the Cambodian provinces of Svay Rieng. From April 17, American units joined those of Saigon in attacks on Cambodian territories bordering on South Viet Nam.

However, things have been deteriorating for the Phnom Penh traitors: their administration has been disintegrating in villages and districts, and desertions multiplying in the ranks of their armed forces.

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* Pham Van Dong, *Political Report to the 6th Session of the National Assembly.*

POLITICAL CAMOUFLAGES

NEO-COLONIALISM always operates by the agency of puppet administrations entirely committed to defend its interests. In South Viet Nam the US had paid great attention and bent all its energies to install quisling governments, for it has to deal with a highly combative people who have liberated half of the national territory and are possessed of a sharp political acumen. The most specious national, democratic, even revolutionary appearance must be given to the puppet regime.

A REACTIONARY SOCIAL BASE

AT the outset the Americans pinned their hopes on the landed and chiefly mandarin feudal class, the mainstay of French colonialism. Having a long experience in administration and repression, it could lend them a most helping hand. US mission must teach these feudalists "modern" fascist and colonialist methods and provide them with the necessary equipment. Of this combination of methods — the ones borrowed from feudalism and the others from fascism — was born the Ngo Dinh Diem regime unambiguously nicknamed the My-Diem regime (US-Diem) by the people. Led by the Michigan State University Advisory Group (MSUAG), the men in Saigon set up an administrative and repressive apparatus reaching down to villages. The so-called self-defence units and civil guards, their Machiavellian method of *Tố Cáng* (denunciation of communists), *Ngu Gia Liên Bao* (house-by-house control by mutual denunciation) were typical of this US-Diem "achievement." It was no wonder that Washington had singled out Ngo Dinh Diem. Born into a family of high-ranking mandarins, he started his career as governor of a small province in Central Viet Nam. He distinguished himself by quelling with utmost cruelty a patriotic movement and was appointed by the French colonialists in 1933, at the age of 33, Minister of the Interior of Hue Court. He would, thirty five years later, put this skill in "counter-insurgency" at the service of the Yankees.

The creation of a large compradore and bureaucratic bourgeoisie was equally important. That social group topped by Diem's family and its friends — was increased and enriched rapidly thanks to US "aid," held key posts in the administration and exerted a predominant influence as a real bureaucratic bourgeoisie on the social and political life in South Viet Nam.

An "agrarian reform" worked out by American experts and promoted by Washington was to spawn a rural bourgeoisie whose nucleus consisted of the landlords who had fled the countryside during the resistance war, or left the North after the Geneva Agreements. The US neo-colonialists tried to stir up the class spirit and revanchist mentality of these discontented with the agrarian policy of the people's power which had allotted land to the toiling peasants.

Furthermore, the US was efficiently helped by the reactionary Catholic hierarchy. In Viet Nam, many Catholic clergymen worked for French colonialism. During the resistance war, they organized Catholic militia to fight the patriots. Under Ngo Dinh Diem, a devout Catholic, the Catholics served as the regime's shock troops.

Archbishop Ngo Dinh Thuc, a Diem's brother, created army chaplains. In a country with 10 per cent of the population consisting of Catholics, these enjoy quite a privileged position compared not only with other believers but also with all other social sections, so much so that for the sake of promotion, civil servants and militarymen would convert to Catholicism. Nguyen Van Thieu also took the same path of advancement.

A NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE FACADE

WASHINGTON has always done its best to put on the Saigon regime a "national" appearance: a "National Assembly," a Constitution, a "national" army and police, an administrative apparatus with all its mechanism, diplomatic missions to US allies, presence at international organizations under US sway, etc.

Diem strove to play on all popular nationalist feelings. Commemoration of historic battles waged against alien aggressors in the past centuries, and births of national heroes, were observed with great pomp but without any stress on their true purport as it would have inconvenienced the regime. On such occasions, Diem, his family members and ministers would sport the traditional turbans, robes and trousers and bow down before the ancestral altar. To commemorate the Trung sisters, national heroines, Mme Nhu, Diem's sister-in-law, paraded on an elephant under a large parasol.

To conceal his allegiance to the Americans, Diem, a former French servant, launched large-scale anti-French campaigns, and persecuted the Chinese and Cambodian colonies in South Viet Nam and went to the length of having French, Chinese and Cambodian nationals murdered. He even forced Vietnamese nationality on Chinese residents.

A DEMOCRATIC PRETENCE

TO display a democratic façade, Diem overthrew Bao Dai, a French puppet and the symbol of feudalism by a referendum held in 1955. But the citizens had only to choose between the absent monarch and the prime minister who, in staging this move, gave himself the "mission to set up a democratic regime" (the words were written on the voting papers). Another referendum which followed immediately endorsed the establishment of the Republic. Elections were then held to a "National Assembly." All these electoral operations were conducted under a stringent police control; intractable voters were in danger of death. It resulted from these "popular" referendums that there were more "yes" for Diem and his men than eligible voters. Candidates of the opposition and many newly-elected deputies were invalidated for unknown reasons. The fraudulent elections under the Thieu-Ky junta in 1967 were still more farcical. According to an American witness, "the regime had to resort to bribery, terror and disqualification of unfriendly voters, any candidate who had Buddhist backing found himself disqualified, and it was common knowledge that soldiers had been instructed to vote several times. Even General Thieu admitted this." (1)

The Diem regime boasted it had worked out a Constitution in 1956, to which the American experts afforded a "decisive" assistance; five of Diem's ministers sat on the 11-member preparatory committee, and the project was amended by Diem himself before promulgation (2). It was known that the 1968 Constitution was presented by Nguyen Cao Ky to Johnson at Honolulu before the *ad hoc* preparatory committee finalized it.

US imperialism also encourages and subsidizes the formation of political parties and professional, religious... organizations, allegedly to generate a "constructive" opposition as a proof of democracy. In fact, they are small committees without mass following which gather adventurers and placemen and are a seed-bed of agents which enable the US to change the ruling team, when necessary. For the same purpose, the neo-colonialists try to keep a press composed of various organs, which, while putting on the regime a democratic face, must, as intended, supply means of expression to a whole caboodle of lackeys in store. The conflicts between the administration and the press are only most of the time clashes of interests between various groups paid by American secret services.

REVOLUTION À L'AMÉRICAINE

THE Americans even want to turn the Saigon regime into a revolutionary one. Diem and his successors have made it a point to ostentatiously display their anti-colonialist and anti-feudalist inclinations.

As has been seen, anti-colonialism serves only as a screen for obedience to US imperialism by spearheading the struggle against the pro-French elements among Diem's rivals.

Insofar as anti-feudalism is concerned, it was first shown by the dethronement of Bao Dai in favour of Ngo Dinh Diem. But the trump-card was "agrarian reform" raised to a State policy. Elaborated by the American Ladejinski and first promulgated in 1956, it distributed land to the peasants who were loyal to the regime, the others, the overwhelming majority, being accused of having taken advantage of circumstances in the past to grab land belonging to landlords and of failing to pay them land rents (3). At the same time it decreed as legal the ownership of estates of about one hundred hectares, not including land reserved for worship purposes, or planted with fruit-trees or industrial crops... By parcelling out the large latifundia in Nam Bo, it wanted to hit at the pro-French big landlords. In Trung Bo where virtually no estate was as large as one hundred hectares, the old jurisdiction remained wellnigh unchanged.

The Nguyen Van Thieu reform, so much ballyhooed these last two months, was fathered by an American expert. For its application, Washington has granted a 40 million-dollar aid. In broad lines, it is but the repetition of what was promulgated in 1956.

The American imperialists and their lackeys see in agrarian reform an instrument which enables them, first and foremost, to neutralize that enforced by the people's power during the first Resistance war and by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government at present. They want to rob the peasants of the land they had received from revolutionary rule and to drive a wedge into the ranks of the peasantry who, together with the working class, is the main force in the national people's democratic revolution. The resistance of the peasants has foiled all these attempts.

In the above, we have laid particular stress on the political camouflages used by Diem in the ten years of his rule, for the simple reason that after the naked aggression against South Viet Nam by the US expeditionary troops, they were but a forced face-lifting which, in reality, had nothing new.

SUCH is roughly the policy pursued by US imperialism in South Viet Nam. In 1954-1955 when peace had just been restored, American dollars had begun to rush in, the new administration was appointing ministers, ambassadors, governors, officers, and an American-type propaganda was flooding the country; some people, the bourgeois in particular, could be taken in. But almost the entire people were so politically alive that they saw at once US hand in it. From the beginning, the political camouflages and manœuvres had proved to be ineffective. The policy of division of the country and of subservience to Washington directly thwarted the aspirations of the whole people. A powerful mass opposition soon took shape. Behind all the camouflages and high faluting speeches on freedom and democracy, brutal, relentless and bloody measures were taken, which was the backbone of neo-colonialist policy.

Next issue:

Repression, a Fundamental Policy.

(1) *William J. Lederer:* The Auguish American, *pp.* 38-39.

(2) *Bernard Fall:* The Two Vietnams, *p.* 261.

(3) *Point* 11 *of Ordinance No* 7 *signed by Ngo Dinh Diem.*

Spring at Dien Bien Phu State Farm

A militiawoman of Meo nationality

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION IN THE NORTH-WEST AUTONOMOUS ZONE

DIEN BIEN PHU is known all over the world, but few people are aware that that now historic district capital is located in an out-of-the-way place in the North-West highlands of Viet Nam. It was on May 7, 1955, the first anniversary of the Dien Bien Phu victory, that the Thai-Meo Autonomous Zone (now the North-West Autonomous Zone) was established which included the provinces of Son La, Lai Chau and Nghia Lo.

The North-West of Viet Nam covers an area of 30,344 square metres or one-fifth of the present territory of the DRVN) with a 500,000 population consisting of 25 ethnic nationalities, the most important of which are the Thais and Meos. Occupied by the French colonial troops immediately after the triumph of the August 1945 Revolution, that region has been placed under the people's democratic regime only since mid-1954.

Under colonialism the North-Western people's life was very hard. Corvées took each inhabitant six months in a year. Famine was prevalent among the toiling masses who lived half of the time on vegetables and wild yam. Salt was lacking to such an extent that people used bamboo ashes as substitute. Malaria and tuberculosis were rampant and epidemics of cholera and small-pox mowed down whole villages. Alcoholism and opium addiction were rife. Ignorance and superstitions kept the inhabitants in complete darkness. Many ethnic minorities were threatened with extinction such as the Co Sung, Mang U, Ha Nhi, Puoc, Xa.

For fifteen years, while healing the wounds caused by French aggression (1945-1954), the North-West Autonomous Zone has embarked on the socialist road, starting directly from the feudal stage and for some tribes from primitive community. This bold option was made possible thanks to the invaluable assistance afforded by the Kinh majority people and in the first place to the national policy of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the democratic State which advocates equality, unity and mutual assistance between the various nationalities and ethnics living in Viet Nam.

Strenuous efforts have been made to turn a natural and autarkic economy of a very low standard, into a commodity economy of socialist character. Following the democratic reforms which have eradicated the last hallmarks of feudalism, co-operativization has established new semi-socialist relations of production in agriculture. Many agricultural and forest enterprises have been set up by the State. A local industry has been licked into shape with small electric stations, engineering workshops, cement factories, sugar refineries, printing houses, pharmaceutical product factories. 165 small mechanical stations have made their appearance in villages and small hydro-power stations have been built on local initiative. Handicrafts, formerly an odd trade, is now a thriving collectivized economic branch. State trade organizes the sale of goods and purchase of local products up to the remotest corners of the country. 4,300 kilometres of motor roads have been built, not including a maze of provincial roads. The North-Westerners no more receive food supply from the delta as they did fifteen years ago: they have sold to the State a greater and greater quantity of surplus grains, timber and forest produce and an increasing number of draught and slaughter animals.

Great progress has been made in the cultural and social field. Each village has a primary general education school, three or four villages an elementary school and each province a secondary school. Many vocational schools have opened, chiefly the intermediate schools of medicine and pedagogy. The Thai and Meo are taught in the first years and used as official languages just like the Vietnamese, the standard language for the whole country. The cultural patrimony of each ethnic group is revalorized. The Autonomous Zone has its own broadcasting network, local press, song and dance ensembles, and professional writers and artists.

Social diseases, chiefly malaria, tuberculosis, syphilis, have been checked. Modern medicine is applied down to the grass-roots level by rural medical stations. The hospitals and dispensaries run by the State total 2,000 sick-beds and a doctor or assistant doctor attends to the health of every 1,000 inhabitants.

At all levels the control is exerted by native cadres trained speedily on a large scale, thus making possible the gradual cutback of cadres coming from the delta. While in 1955 there were 117 native cadres having an elementary schooling, there are now 2,200 (42 have received higher education, 759 secondary education and over 1,400 elementary education).

Deeply anxious to preserve the acquisitions unknown so far in their history, the North-Westerners put up a stubborn struggle against US aggression from 1965 to 1968. Their military and para-military forces foiled all the aggressors' scheme, seized all the commando units air-droppedon their mountains and jungle, downed hundreds of planes and captured hundreds of American pilots.

Starting almost from scratch, the North-West Autonomous Zone has made big strides towards socialism. With the Viet Bac Autonomous Zone, it is an area in North Viet Nam ruled by the national minorities themselves.

POLIOMYELITIS CHECKED IN DRVN

POLIOMYELITIS which especially hits small children endemically plagued Viet Nam for a long time. Sometimes deadly, it left dreadful sequelae, and many children got incapacitated for life. But children's welfare was no concern for the former colonial administration, moreover the ravages of poliomyelitis were not at all comparable with those of such calamities as small-pox and cholera.

After the main epidemic diseases were wiped out following the liberation of North Viet Nam thanks to a vast prophylactic movement, poliomyelitis commanded our attention. From 1957 to 1959 serious epidemics broke out, spreading from the towns to the countryside, affecting particularly children under three (94 per cent). The mortality rate was especially high among those under one year of age: 26.62 per cent in 1957, 54.89 in 1958 and 47.92 in 1959.

As there is no efficacious treatment against poliomyelitis, efforts must be concentrated on prophylaxy, in the first place on the active immunization of infants and newly-born babies. From 1959 to 1961, the DRVN received from the Soviet Union several million doses of trivalent Sabrin-Choumakov vaccine (attenuated live vaccine), which helped check outbursts of epidemic. This oral vaccine, easy to take and to keep, perfectly fits Viet Nam's conditions. To get rid of poliomyelitis once for all, the DRVN Ministry of Health decided to prepare the vaccine in Hanoi after the technical indications of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR. This difficult task of major importance for the young generation was fulfilled in the end of 1961 by a team of Vietnamese virologists under the direction of Doctor Hoang Thuy Nguyen.

For nearly ten years, the attenuated live vaccine produced in Viet Nam has been widely administered to children in the DRVN from town to countryside every year, even during the climax of American aggression (1965-1968). Poliomyelitis has been practically checked in both its epidemic and endemic forms. Sporadic cases still occur but their clinical symptoms are benign as most of them do not leave any sequelae.

HEAD OF STATE OF CAMBODIA VISITS PDR OF KOREA

At the invitation of Kim Il Sung, Head of State and President of the Council of Ministers, and Tchoe Yong Keun, President of the Supreme People's Assembly of the PDR of Korea, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia and President of the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK), and Princess Monique Sihanouk, arrived at Pyong Yang on June 16 by a special train, for a state visit to the PDR of Korea.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk was accompanied by Samdech Penn Nouth, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia and Chairman of the Political Bureau of the CC of the FUNK, and his wife, as well as other Cambodian personalities.

At Pyong Yang Station, Samdech N. Sihanouk and other personalities of his party were welcomed by Kim Il Sung, Tchoe Young Keun and their wives and other leaders.

"From the railway station to the Guest House, 200,000 Koreans carrying Korean and Cambodian flags warmly acclaimed the Cambodian people's messengers.

U.S. and Henchmen's Vandalism in Angkor Area Condemned

THE Information Bureau of the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK) has issued two successive statements strongly condemning the US and its henchmen's vandalism against the cultural relics of the Khmer people, especially the world-famous Angkor temples.

The statements pointed out that during the recent days, the Lon Nol - Matak clique, in collusion with the Thai reactionaries, had sent aircraft on strafing missions over the surrounding area of the Angkor temples under the pretext that liberation forces were stationed there.

The FUNK Information Bureau quoted *AFP* of June 11 as reporting that Cambodian pilots that day had flown half a dozen T-28 fighter-bombers given by Thailand against the area. It also quoted *AP* as saying "the government (i.e. Lon Nol - Matak) troops might employ gas fortified with a vomiting-inducing agent" there.

It stressed: "The criminal acts, fallacious allegations and vicious slanders together with deceitful ballyhoos that Angkor was an 'open city' only brought out in bold relief the heavy setbacks of the reactionaries, henchmen of the US in Cambodia, who are trying to cover up and justify their loathsome anti-national crimes and their vandalism which have been indignantly condemned by the Cambodian people and progressive mankind."

It demanded that the US imperialists and their henchmen stop immediately all their military actions which damage the historic, cultural and art works of the Cambodian people, especially the Angkor temples area.

It called on public opinion at home and abroad to keep an eye on, and check, in time the criminal acts of the US imperialists and their henchmen against the famed ancient Angkor temples and other cultural and art works of the Khmer people.

US troops of the 4th Infantry Division entering a Cambodian village which had been completely destroyed by US aircraft

(Continued from page 1)

A FATAL DECISION

IT was in the midst of all this that Richard Nixon on April 30 told the American nation that he had decided to deploy several US and Saigonese divisions into Cambodia. The set goal was to capture the HQ and dismantle the "sanctuaries" of the Viet Cong and at the same time nip the Khmer Resistance in the bud.

It should be recalled that at the moment when Nixon delivered his message, American divisions had already entered the Cambodian area called "Fish Hook," fully prepared to close in on the so-called Viet Cong HQ. Nixon did not take the trouble of consulting Congress and the Cabinet about this decision, though comparable, according to him, to the gravest decisions taken by his predecessors—Wilson, Roosevelt, Eisenhower and Kennedy. Cynically enough, this invasion was presented as a move to defend the neutrality of Cambodia; the House, however, admitted that no official request to this effect had been made by its protégé Lon Nol!

Two months and a half had elapsed. Nixon's decision had been so unpopular that he was compelled to appear before the press on May 8 and on the television on June 3 in an effort to appease the public sentiment by reaffirming that US troops would be withdrawn out of Cambodia before July 1 as he had promised, while arrogating to himself the right to continue the aerial bombardments against that country after that deadline.

As early as May 25, Clark Clifford, ex-Secretary of Defense (to whom Nixon's "reckless" decision to send troops to Cambodia is "continuing a course of action which I believe to be dangerous to the welfare of our nation") already wrote in *The Times*: "I anticipate that in the period of the next few weeks glowing reports will flow back from Viet Nam regarding the outstanding success of the drive into Cambodia. Figures will be proudly presented showing the number of tons of rice captured, bunkers and staging areas destroyed, substantial numbers of weapons and quantities of ammunition found. A determined effort will be made to portray the entire venture as a success, even though no major engagements will have taken place and the number of enemy casualties will be woefully small."

Everything predicted by Clifford effectively materialized on June 3 when, over the TV, Nixon reported progress on the two-month operation in Cambodia and presented to his fellow-countrymen a long list of war booties with film strips to back his words.

In Cambodia THREE MONTHS AFTER

DISAPPOINTING RESULTS

IN fact, the results have been most disappointing, especially considering the size of the troop strength involved. From April 29 to May 6, Nixon mobilized 70,000 US and Saigonese troops with a considerable support of artillery, tanks, armoured cars, B.52's and other combat planes, to strike chiefly at two areas—Parrot's Beak and Fish Hook, in the provinces of Svay Rieng and Kompong Cham. The troops involved represented the élite of the US Expeditionary Corps: 4th Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, First Air-Cavalry Division, 11th Armoured Cavalry Regiment. From the Saigon puppet army: the 5th, 22nd and 9th divisions, armoured units, paratroops and marines. Along a 400-km front line, they mounted massive operations on the Khmer patriotic forces in the hope of wiping them out. Nevertheless, the latter seemed to have evaporated before their advance, something which explains the absence of any major engagement in the first days, as Clifford had predicted. But soon afterwards, while the enemy did not expect it, the Khmer resistance fighters began their harassing attacks against the invaders without let-up. Meanwhile, guerilla warfare has been gaining momentum across the country. That is the reason of the heavy losses suffered by the US-Saigonese troops. According to a survey published by the FUNK, from March 18 to May 31, 40,000 enemy soldiers (12,000 Americans and Saigonese among them a Saigonese puppet general and a US colonel) were put out of action, 2 56 battalions destroyed or decimated, 10,000 weapons captured, 1,000 military vehicles rendered unserviceable and 100 aircraft downed.

In the early days of June, the fighting moved to the West, in the provinces of Siem Reap, Battambang, Kompong Speu and Preah Vihear. Phnom Penh was practically cut off from the rest of the country, all routes leading to the capital were interdicted.

In the said period, there was a new flare-up in South Viet Nam: the South Viet Nam PLAF mounted a series of assaults in force against the US-Saigonese troops from Quang Tri to the Mekong Delta. Dalat, Cam Ranh and other strategic positions were not spared.

Thus, the US military action directed against Cambodia, far from reducing US losses, has increased them. The Western press has disclosed that in the first weeks of June, US casualties were the heaviest in the last 10 months while Saigonese losses were the highest since the beginning of the Viet Nam war.

GROWING DIFFICULTIES

NIXON is struggling in growing difficulties. As public opinion is strongly for the withdrawal of GIs from Cambodia, he has had to order the Thieu-Ky troops to remain indefinitely in that country. So doing, he has landed himself in a vicious circle: the Cambodian operation was decided just to try and save the "Vietnamization" programme threatened with bankruptcy because of the deficiency of the Saigonese troops. Now the latter find themselves bogged down in Cambodia. How can Nixon bring to fruition his "Vietnamization" and get the US troops out of the South Viet Nam quagmire? Moreover, the *Wall Street Journal* in its May 26 issue wondered how Saigonese troops could save Lon Nol when the 400,000 GIs were pinned down in South Viet Nam to save these same troops?

Nixon has also thrown Thai troops into action. The reactionary authorities of Bangkok have decided to send to Cambodia Thai "volunteers" of Khmer origin; on June 11, Deputy Prime Minister Praphas Charusathien went to the length of declaring that troops from the Thai regular army might also be sent to Cambodia. However, the combat efficiency of the Bangkok army is not a secret. Its performances have been the poorest in Laos where Thai mercenaries have already come to the rescue of Lao rightists.

In a dispatch from Bangkok on June 12, *AFP* reported that the Phnom Penh Foreign Minister, Yem Sambor, had stated his "government" might also turn toward Seato for help. It is recalled that at Washington's instigation, on May 16, Adam Malik, US agent in Indonesia, convened in Djakarta a so-called Asian Conference on Cambodia. It was attended only by some US satellites. Furthermore, these countries failed to reach agreement on a favourable response to Lon Nol's request for military aid, being afraid of public opinion as well as of involvement in a military venture.

PROGRESS OF THE RESISTANCE

FOR its part, the Cambodian Resistance has been increasingly strengthened and has made considerable progress over the past 3 months. By the end of May, 3 province capitals, 53 district towns and other urban centres and hundreds of villages had been freed from Lon Nol's yoke. A vast liberated zone has emerged, in one stretch, covering the provinces of Kratié, Stung Treng, Ratanakiri and Mondulkiri.

On May 4, Samdech N. Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, proclaimed in Peking the formation of a Royal Government of National Union headed by Samdech Penn Nouth. This government is placed under the leadership of the FUNK whose Political Bureau has also been set up. The FUNK has announced its political programme which emphasizes the determination of the Khmer people to fight against US aggression and to build a democratic and prosperous Cambodia. In a few weeks, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia received *de jure* recognition from 19 countries and marks of sympathy from many others.

By staging the March 18 *coup d'état*, Washington leaders wanted to set Khmers against Vietnamese and Lao under the "Nixon doctrine." However, the militant solidarity of these three peoples has in fact increased tenfold. On April 24, the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples were held. In a historic Joint Declaration, it expressed the determination of the three peoples "to support each other in the struggle against the common enemy and to co-operate in the future and on a long-term basis in the building of each country in its own way." The official visit by Samdech N. Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, to the DRVN from May 25 to June 8 contributed to further strengthening the bonds of indestructible friendship between the Vietnamese and Khmer peoples, the guarantee of their victory.

The Khmer people's struggle is enjoying an unprecedentedly wide international support. Eight socialist countries of the Mutual Economic Assistance Council meeting at the 24th session of this Council and 18 communist parties of the capitalist countries of Europe at a conference on May 15 declared their solidarity with the Khmer people. In Peking, on May 20 Chairman Mao Tse-tung issued an important statement condemning US aggression and supporting the resistance of the Khmer people under the leadership of Samdech N. Sihanouk. Many international and national organizations, many meetings and conferences have also expressed their support to the Cambodian people's effort.

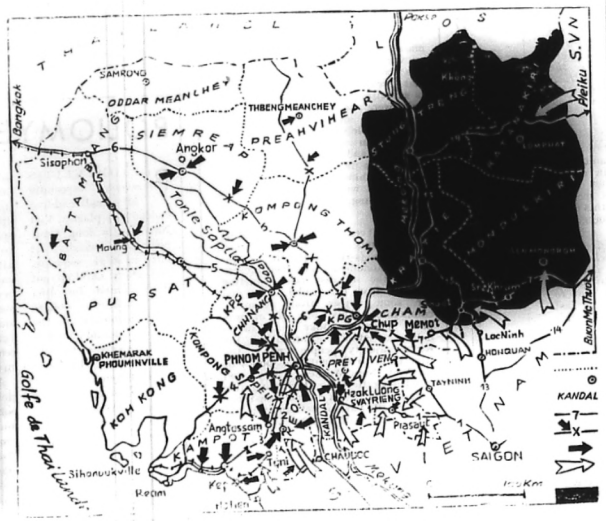
A VIRTUALLY TOTAL ISOLATION

NIXON'S isolation has been aggravated to the highest degree. Of all Western allies of the US, only Holland weakly supported US action in Cambodia. At home, the US President found himself completely alienated from the political circles and the people. He himself had to recognize in his June 3 speech the existence of "deep divisions in this country" and "an unprecedented barrage of criticism" against him. Senator Mansfield termed the Cambodian decision "a national shame." The war in Viet Nam has already swallowed up at least 130 billion dollars, not including indirect or camouflaged spending; the budget deficit has been growing year after year; prices and taxes going up continually; and inflation worsening. Most alarming is that industrial production in the principal sectors has gone down, and economic recession started in the Fall of 1969 has deteriorated. In the stock exchange, a crisis has been looming large on the market of shares and menaced to spread to the whole capitalist world.

This economic and financial picture has looked gloomier still since the extension of the war to Cambodia. Mammoth demonstrations have taken place across the US and the killing of the 4 Kent State University students by the police only poured more oil on popular anger. 3,300 lawyers, 250 employees of the State Department, 200 government experts in S.E.A. affairs, and 97% of the letters received by the Senate office have censured the Cambodian operation as an open aggression which must be condemned both politically and juridically. Important personalities of the regime including members of the Cabinet have tendered their resignation in protest. The Senate has been angered by the President's disregard for the Constitution and has come out against his Cambodia decision. A bill jointly tabled by Senators Copper and Church was passed on May 26, cutting down funds for military activities in Cambodia after July 1.

DECIDEDLY, by deposing Samdech N. Sihanouk and by hurling divisions of American troops into an invasion of Cambodia, Nixon made a very bad calculation. Being in a position of weakness and beaten in Viet Nam and Laos, he nurtured the illusion of securing a position of strength by opening a new front: the result has been catastrophic for him. Forced to de-escalate in South Viet Nam, he attempted a new escalation in a neighbouring country: his fall will only be more deadly.

As for the Khmer people, with their traditions of struggle and resolve to safeguard their independence and neutrality and with the active friendship of the brotherly Vietnamese and Lao peoples and the support of the whole progressive mankind, they are certain of their final victory.



MILITARY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA
3 months after the pro-US coup d'état

Frontier of Cambodia
Provincial boundary
Provincial capital
Name of province
National road
Road cut by FUNK armed forces
Attack made by FUNK armed forces
Invasion by US and Saigon forces
Liberated zones in Cambodia

U.S. Senate Again Rebuffs Nixon

THE US Senate by a vote of June 11 rejected the amendment by Sen. Robert Byrd, Democrat—West Virginia, to authorize the President to commit US troops to Cambodia after June 30. This was seen by observers as a "major defeat for the Nixon administration" (AFP), a "key victory" of the "Senate's anti-war bloc." (UPI)

Thus the "credibility gap" which had critically widened under the Johnson administration has been greatly aggravated since US adventurous armed aggression against Cambodia and war expansion to the whole Indochina. The Cooper-Church amendment submitted to the Senate showed the extend of the distrust in the US President by the highest legislative organ of the United States: by virtue of this amendment, all the expenditures for US troops in Cambodia including funds reserved for US military advisors commanding Saigon puppet troops and other mercenaries there will be cut.

That this amendment was tabled just after Nixon had solemnly promised to the whole nation to withdraw all US troops from Cambodia before July 1, proved that the great majority of the senators, including many "hawks", and public opinion in the United States, did not take Nixon and his promises very seriously.

By rejecting the Nixon-backed Byrd amendment the US Senate wanted to assert its constitutional right to stop the President's actions, while the latter resorted to every imaginable trick to bypass the Senate. As Western opinion has rightly remarked, the recent Senate vote against Nixon was essentially a non-confidence vote which, in any other country in Western Europe, would have forced the head of government to resign.

It has also been reported that Nixon is preparing to send another "fact-finding mission" to Indochina purposely to cook up a report that would completely suit his purpose. His yes-men have already half a dozen "counter-amendments" ready for the Senate.

But it is unlikely that all these manoeuvres can ever fill the widening "credibility gap" between the Nixon administration and the American people.

News from LAOS

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT DENOUNCES THAILAND'S PARTICIPATION IN LAOS WAR

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, Secretary-General of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee and member of the National Commission for the Implementation of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, on June 9 sent an urgent message to the two Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference on Laos, denouncing the US imperialists, the Thai reactionaries and the Vientiane puppet administration's serious violations of the Geneva Agreements on Laos.

The message, released by *KPL*, said:

"Since the conclusion of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, the Thai reactionary administration has unceasingly lent a hand to the US imperialists by committing first Thai military "advisors" then Thai regular troops directly to the war in Laos.

"Particularly over the recent past, it has openly deployed many battalions of Thai combat troops in three regions of the country, the Sam Thong - Long Cheng area — a US military jumping-off point in Upper Laos, and Savannakhet and Nha Hun in Lower Laos. A number of Thai battalions have been camouflaged as "Laos."

"No military operations against the Lao patriotic forces have been launched without the participation of Thai combat units or Thai military 'advisors.'

"Most recently, on May 31, 1970, Thai puppet troops attacked the Lao patriotic forces at Pakkha in Nam Tha province under the cover of Thai artillery positioned across the Mekong River. At the same time, other Thai units took part in inroads conducted by Vang Pao's US - trained "special forces" into Ban Na, 12 kilometres south of the Plain of Jars.

"Along with these Thai military activities and to co-ordinate operations on the Lower Laos battlefield with those in South Viet Nam and Cambodia, the US imperialists hellifired South Vietnamese puppet commandos into Lao territory to carry out espionage and sabotage, and sent 8,240 flights of aircraft against populated areas in Laos."

LAO PATRIOTS HOLD EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

PATHET LAO News Agency (*KPL*) reported that an extraordinary meeting was held by the Lao Patriotic Front and the Lao Patriotic Neutralist Forces from June 6 to 8, 1970 in Sam Neua province.

At the meeting, Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front, delivered a political report on the present situation of the struggle against US aggression and the new tasks confronting the Lao people, and Khamsouk Keola, Chairman of the Alliance Committee of the Lao Patriotic Neutralist Forces, made a speech highlighting the splendid achievements of the Lao patriotic forces and voicing full support for Prince Souphanouvong's political report.

The participants unanimously approved a statement condemning the US imperialists and their quislings' war escalation in Indochina, especially in Laos, and calling on the Lao people to unite closely with the Khmer and Vietnamese peoples in order to implement the Joint Declaration of the recent Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, and march toward yet greater successes against the US imperialists and their stooges.

ORDER AND SECURITY RESTORED IN NEWLY-LIBERATED SARAVANE

SINCE the liberation of the Saravane provincial capital (Lower Laos) from the Vientiane army's control on June 9, under the leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front Committee and revolutionary administration of Saravane, order and security have quickly been restored there, *KPL* reported.

The regional armed forces and guerillas have continued hunting out the enemy remnants inside the city and its surrounding areas.

National-minded soldiers in the US-fostered Vientiane army who mutinied and assisted the patriotic forces in liberating the town were warmly welcomed and rewarded.

Enemy troops who gave themselves up were given good treatment.

Enemy reconnaissance flights and air missions over Saravane met with intense ground fire. According to Western reports, two planes — an F.4 and a T. 28 — were shot down on the spot on June 9.

Captured GIs Denounced Nixon's War Policy

SEVERAL GIs captured by the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces have given their views on the criminal war being conducted by the US administration against the Vietnamese people. Their statements were distributed recently by Giai Phong Press Agency. Following are excerpts from the statements by Captain John W. Parsels, and Specialist Daniel H. Hefel, respectively pilot and door-gunner of the Second Brigade of the 101st US Airborne Division whose helicopter was shot down by the PLAF in Quang Tri — Thua Thien area on February 5, 1970 and who were captured together with all other members of the crew.

Captain **John W. Parsels:**

"On the 5th of February 1970, while flying near the Ashau valley we flew into the clouds and were hit by ground fire of the liberation armed forces. We lost control of the helicopter and crashed into the side of a mountain. Upon crashing the aircraft caught fire. I managed to crawl out, but found that my leg had been badly hurt and I was unable to walk. I was very much afraid for my life as I was unable to call for help. I lay there for some time, then one of the other crew members came up to me to see if he could help me. There was nothing he could do for my leg, so he went to help the others. While lying there I remembered that the US army had told me that if you were captured you would be beaten, tortured and then killed. I lay there for quite some time and then I heard someone approaching and saw that is was a Vietnamese. I was very afraid and thought that I was going to be killed. The only thing I could think of was to tell him that I would like my life to be saved. Immediately I begged 'chieu hoi' (surrender) and let myself be captured. The man turned out to be an NFL soldier. He approached and fired his weapon over my head and yelled.

"He then came up to me and searched me. When finding my cigarettes he offered me one. This surprised me very much. He did not mistreat me at all, instead gave me some food for dinner.

"The next morning he and another soldier came and carried me to the top of the hill where a medical man gave me some sweet milk.

"For the next six days, I was carried by the liberation soldiers to the camp where I am now. Their carrying me up and down the hills is very hard work as they are much smaller than I and I weigh much more than they do. But they in turns carried me for six days over many mountains and thick jungles. This also surprised me and profoundly impressed me, proving that the NFL policy towards captured GIs is very lenient and humanitarian which has been observed strictly by the liberation armed forces from generals to privates.

"This also proves their oneness of mind and their determination to struggle for the liberation of their country. They treat humanely and kindly all captured GIs. I think for sure that their humane policy originates from their just cause. I believe that their struggle for independence and freedom is very legitimate and they must have the right to do this.

"During this time and up till the present, I have not been mistreated in any way. I have received enough to eat and a lot of medical treatment for my leg. Every day doctors and medics came to take care of my wound. The liberation soldiers made me as comfortable as possible and gave me cigarettes and other items which they did not have to give me.

"... President Nixon says that we American people cannot just pull out of Viet Nam but I cannot see why we can't. By staying we are protecting a small minority of the corrupt Vietnamese in Saigon and are not gaining anything but will lose more of our men and take the lives of many more innocent Vietnamese. I believe that the majority of the US officers and soldiers fighting and dying here do not wish to be here and have no stomach for this unjust war and should follow the example of the millions of people in the US and throughout the world in demanding an end to the war and total withdrawal of our troops.

"I have read the National Front for Liberation's proposed solution to the problem in Viet Nam which it brought up at the Paris peace talks and it is very fair and just. It gives a very clear way to end this unnecessary war and provides the Vietnamese with the choice of government and freedom. It is not, as I had thought, a one-way solution to a communist government... It calls for nothing which should prevent the US from accepting except that it does not protect the present puppet government which is not supported by the Vietnamese people in any way. I truly believe that the American people should convince the US government to take a closer look at this unjust and uncalled-for intervention in Viet Nam and withdraw our forces and let the Vietnamese people gain their freedom and independence which they have been fighting to obtain for so many years."

Specialist **Daniel H. Hefel,** *service number* 481766468:

"I was fed up with this war and I knew my friends were too. I had a talk with all of them and they said they did not want to fight any more. We all went to the company commander. Captain Jackson, and tried to convince him not to fight any more. He had the same feeling as we had. We told him to refuse any orders given him by the higher commander. He tried every way possible to avoid the orders. We also told him that we were tired of this whole unnecessary war and we all wanted to go home. I've seen GIs trying to break their legs or hurt themselves in every way and I've seen them pretending that they were sick so they would not have to go on any more operation."

Hefel was later assigned as door-gunner on a helicopter and was told to fire at everything moving on the ground. He said:

"... I knew that there was only innocent people down there. I could see no reason for firing, that is why I told the commander that my gun was broken."

Hefel was later shot down and captured together with Captain Parsels. He related how humanely he was treated at the camp and how much he was impressed by the dedication of the PLAF fighters in the struggle they are waging for national salvation.

Hefel said:

"Nixon's Vietnamization program is only an excuse to keep GIs in Viet Nam, to back the corrupt men in Saigon and to keep this dirty war of aggression going."

Hefel concluded his letter by calling on his fellows in the 101st Airborne Division and in the US expeditionary corps in Viet Nam not to let themselves be the "last man to be killed in this loking and tragic war."

"Just remember the men who had died not for an old glory and it will change your actions towards fighting. In your mind you have two things to decide, die uselessly or survive, it is up to you to decide which one. Try all means and in any way to demand your home coming and take any action to co-ordinate with the American people at home to end this war."

In May: U.S. War Activities Steppe d Up:

1,900 Reconnaissance and 96 Bombing Sorties on DRVN

THE Commission for Investigation of US Imperialists' War Crimes has given a preliminary report on the last month's serious infringements by the US armed forces of the territory, sovereignty and security of the DRVN during May.

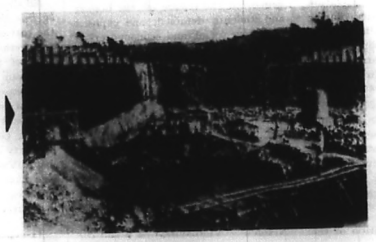
There were 1,900 US spying raids flown by 3,100 planes, representing a sharp increase over the last month (1,300 raids and 2,000 sorties).

In the first half of May, US planes carried out also 96 bombing missions, dumping 2,000 explosive bombs and 199,200 anti-personnel bombs. For example, on May 1, 1970, 40 fighter-bombers struck for four hours at Le Ninh state farm in Quang Binh province, sowing death and ruins on an area 15 km long and 10 km wide, inflicting on the local people 34 casualties, including 10 women and 14 children.

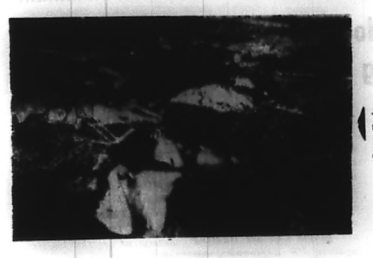
Huong Lap village, near the 17th Parallel, was bombed by B.52s on May 14 (12 planes) and on May 26, 27 and 29.

American artillery from the 7th Fleet and based south of the demarcation line lobbed on North Viet Nam 538 122mm and 175mm shells, hitting various civilian and economic targets in Vinh Linh area.

AA batteries of the DRVN downed in May 14 US fighter-bombers, thus bringing to 3,352 planes the total losses suffered by the US air force in North Viet Nam since the beginning of "escalation" (August 5, 1964).



Principal water channel of Cam Ly dam damaged and...



... workers of Le Ninh State Farm and their children killed during the May 1, 1970 US air-raid against Quang Binh province

SAIGON SOLDIERS PROTEST CAMBODIA AGGRESSION

A whole regiment of the puppet army operating in Cambodia was sent back to Vi Thanh base (South Viet Nam) as the result of many desertions and mutinies, *Giai Phong* Press Agency (*GPA*) reported.

As early as at the beginning of the aggression against Cambodia, in mid-May, armymen of the 4th Battalion, 31st Regiment, 21st Division, opened up on Lon Nol soldiers, killing 50, and demanded repatriation. Seventy men of that battalion then joined the liberated areas in Ha Tien province (South Viet Nam).

Another unit of the 21st Division (the 33rd Regiment) was also thinned out by desertions. Especially on May 23, that is three days after their assignment to the regiment, 130 out of 200 new recruits went home, following the example set by many others who had done so the day before. Besides troops of the First and Third Battalions of that regiment threatened to shoot at the Cambodian reactionary soldiers as their mates in the 4th Battalion, 31st Regiment, had done.

71st Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (June 18, 1970)

U.S. HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESENT DEADLOCK

AT the 71st session of the Paris Conference, the representatives of the DRVN and PRG of RSVN pointed out that the deadlock of the Conference was solely due to the Nixon administration's prosecution of the war in South Viet Nam under the "Vietnamization" label and extension of it to the whole of the Indochinese peninsula, thus endangering the peace in Southeast Asia. They stressed that the only way out for the US was to accept the 10-point overall solution of the PRG totally backed by the DRVN government.

Mr NIXON MISTAKES...

(Continued from page 1)

And naturally, to drown the boom of guns, great moves are attempted to trick people into believing in Washington's will for peace and negotiation. Actually, Nixon does not want to withdraw either from Viet Nam or from Asia. When he launched the Cambodian operation, he thought he was holding many trumpcards for victory. He believed in the omnipotence of the United States, in the absolute supremacy of US weaponry. He thought he could placate American opinion by striking the chauvinistic chord. He imagined he could throw a sop to world opinion by holding out prospects of negotiation.

Those illusions were given short shrift. The major fact is that the Khmer people and their head of state, far from showing resignation and bowing the neck to the Yankee colossus, have picked up the gauntlet. In the words of a foreign correspondent, Lon Nol is now but the mayor of Phnom Penh. The Khmer people, to safeguard their independence and freedom, have set up solid alliance with the Lao and Vietnamese peoples. And, acting in concert, the three peoples of Indochina are striking crushing blows at the American machinery of aggression. Unable to win even the war in Viet Nam, the American war machine is now involved in an Indochina war of much greater scope. It had been unable to win even at a time when GIs' morale was at a peak and American opinion little informed of the disastrous consequences of American policy.

Now, as American and puppet troops are reeling under daily assaults on the fronts of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, there take place in the United States itself repeated waves of criticism, street demonstrations and angry debate in Congress. Meany, the president of AFL-CIO, a hawk, has been forced to admit that the USA is suffering from the worst inflation for 20 years, the worst increase in unemployment rate in ten years, and the highest interest rates for a century. Forty-three Nobel prize winners, i.e. three-fourths of the total number of American savants awarded that honour, strongly voice their opposition. A wave of indignation sweeps the whole world. Richard Nixon is finding himself enmeshed in difficulties even worse than those Lyndon Johnson had faced.

By setting up an arsenal of the most up-to-date weaponry, by working out the most perfidious and barbarous methods of neo-colonialist domination, Washington had thought it could impose its hegemony on the whole world, especially on the Third World. The American rulers forget that our epoch is witnessing the joint triumph of the forces of socialism, national liberation and social progress. The building of socialism in many countries, the resolute and universal struggle of the oppressed peoples, the fight put up by the workers and the men of peace and progress in the advanced capitalist countries — these three great streams converge to create an offensive posture for world revolution. Integrated into this immense movement, the peoples, no matter how small, can now victoriously resist the desperate assaults of Yankee imperialism. That Laos (population: 3 million) and Cambodia (7 million) can stand up to the all-powerful United States and that, at the other end of the world, another small country, Cuba, daily defies the colossus— these facts prove that the time is gone by when a gunboat could decide the fate of a country.

By mistaking the time, Richard Nixon is doomed to defeat.

In South Viet Nam Urban Centres

STEPPED-UP ANTI-US-PUPPET PROTEST

THE urban centres in South Viet Nam, particularly Saigon, are now all in a trepidation because of angry outcries and stampings of people from every walk of life up against the US aggressors' prolonging the war and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem rotten fascist regime.

This fresh outburst, now three months old, started with students' meetings and demonstrations for democratic liberties and against terror and repression, and has developed into actions for an end of the Viet Nam war and removal of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem triumvirate.

Over the past few days, there has been a splash of slogans in Saigon such as: "Governor General Bunker, go home!", "Yankee, go home!", "Down with Thieu clique!", "Vietnamization is prolongation of the war!", "Restore peace now!" The Saigon papers are rife with reports on heated teach-ins staged in universities and colleges, spirited street demonstrations, press conferences held even inside police cordons, exhibitions of splinters of tear grenades used by the police and American foot-wear with the inscription: "These American shoes are tramping on our soil." On June 10, *UPI* quoted an American peace organization as saying that the Saigon press was replete with stories on the protest now gaining in scope and intensity among the population against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem rule and prolongation of the Viet Nam war.

On June 13, Thieu was compelled to release six students detained since March last, among whom was Huynh Tan Mam, acting President of the Students' General Association in Saigon; at the same time he gave orders to crack down on the students' movement. According to Western agencies, on the evening of June 13, clashes were going on in downtown Saigon between the police and students. Puppet policemen and American MPs hurled tear grenades at the Agricultural College where about one thousand students were digging in and repelled the assailants with bottles of petrol and bricks. According to *AP* and *UPI*, on the same day the students held a demonstration at the Saigon University during which they pelted stones at two MP cars stationed near the puppet Navy HQ and set fire to a lorry of the American RMK-BRJ firm. They chanted such slogans as: "US MP, go home!", "US aggressor, go home!", "Bunker, go home!" On the same day, a Committee of Action was set up by delegates of students and professors, showing their grim determination to fight together with the entire people for freedom and democracy.

Denouncing the persecution of the students, a Saigon paper censured the Thieu administration for "failing to meet any of the students' legitimate claims and being too intractable with the young generation." Copies of this paper were seized and the number of issues of various Saigon papers banned has run to 70 for these last three month. On June 3, all Saigon papers suspended publication in protest against the repressive measures taken by the authorities and in support of the students' movement.

As fellow-victims, bonzes and Buddhist believers did not remain idle. They went on a 48-hour hunger strike against the war, challenged Thieu's recognition of the reactionary Bonze Thich Tam Chau as representative of the Buddhist clergy, demanded the release of the bonzes and students detained, and exposed the grave social and economic crisis gripping South Viet Nam.

On June 4, Hoang Thi Gai, a 24-year-old female bonze, and on June 11, Thich Thien Lai, a 74-year-old bonze, burnt themselves to death in dissent with the Viet Nam war. On the morning of June 14, 15,000 Saigonese including bonzes, nuns, students, workers, housewives and puppet ex-servicemen attended the funeral of Thich Thien Lai and turned it into a big demonstration against Nixon's "Vietnamization" and for the "withdrawal of GIs and allied troops from South Viet Nam and an end to the nasty war in Viet Nam."

Co-ordinating their action with the students and Buddhists, the workers at the Thu Duc warehouse in Saigon new harbour (a military port) downed tools for a wage-lift and rehiring of 250 dismissed workers. On June 9, the Saigon dockers called a sympathetic strike which brought the Saigon port to a standstill, *AFP* reported on June 11. 2,000 workers at American hotels and 60,000 workers belonging to 124 TUs in Saigon also walked out for a wage increase, an end to repression and sackings. They were backed by 40,000 workers outside of TU organizations who also struck.

All these actions were spearheaded against the US aggressive policy and the rotten dictatorial Saigon regime and were a landmark in the development of the political drive in South Viet Nam urban centres. At a press conference on June 10, the spokesman of an American peace organization said that "opposition to the Saigon Government had reached an intensity comparable to that existing just before the downfall of President Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963. And the current government of President Thieu had surpassed the worst of Diem in its use of arbitrary arrest, murder and extreme physical torture."

PLAF INTENSE ACTIVITIES

Night of June 3: In *Ia Giang* province, 71 enemy positions and bases including *Tri Ton* sub-sector CP bombarded by PLAF; *Go Dam* military training-centre at *Phu Cat* stormed: 100 enemy soldiers killed, one ammunition dump and 3 military vehicles destroyed.

Night of June 4: In *Quang Nam* province, 19 enemy bases and positions including *Nha Trang* airfield pounded, 4 positions assaulted; US base at *Chu Lai* twice shelled by PLAF: 150 aircraft wrecked, over 100 depots and barracks erased, millions of litres of petrol burnt, 500 GIs killed.

Night of June 5: US storages at *Dco Son, Binh Dinh* province, hit: 50 million litres of petrol set afire, 12 blockhouses wiped out, 80 GIs (20 officers) killed.

Night of June 7: Regional forces hammered at *My Tho* town: a compagny of NCO under training and a platoon of field police wiped out.

June 8: *Tanh Linh* sub-sector (*Binh Tay* province) and airfield stormed: 230 adverse troops (50 GIs and a puppet major) killed, 6 military vehicles blasted out of commission, 4 military depots blotted out, a big quantity of equipment seized.

Between June 3 and 10: Heavy attacks on *Thuong Duc* and *Hiep Duc* sub-sectors, the district capital and other enemy positions in *Thang Binh* district (*Quang Nam* province): 370 GIs and puppet troops killed, 2 ammunition depots burnt down.

June 12: Units of 196th Brigade, Americal Division, assaulted in *Hiep Duc* region, South Koreans of "Blue Dragon" Brigade hit, 30 enemy positions bombarded by PLAF.

U Thant's Indochina Statement, a Helping Hand to the United States

ACCORDING to UPI, *in his statement to the press on June 11 at the United Nations on the Cambodia and Indochina question, U Thant, UN Secretary General, reiterated his proposal for an enlarged international conference of the "Geneva-type conference in 1954" to try to put an end to the war in Indochina.*

At a time when the world's peoples, including the American people, were strongly critical of the brazen aggression against Cambodia by the US imperialists and their henchmen in Saigon and Thailand, which has resulted in expanding the war of aggression in Viet Nam to the whole of Indochina, U Thant only made the most vague and "objective" comment that "the expansion of the war to Cambodia has caused me profound anguish."

On the Viet Nam question, Mr. Thant only took up the famous position of the US for "mutual withdrawal," saying that "it is not likely that the Viet Nam war will be ended through a unilateral act of disengagement by either side." Thus, the UN Secretary General again put on a par the aggressor—the US imperialists—and the victim of aggression—the Vietnamese people who are fighting against US aggression, for national salvation. Mr. Thant did not seem to have seen that the main cause of the war of aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina is the brutal aggression of the war-mongering and obdurate US imperialists.

His proposal fits into the intention of the United States to use an international conference as a shield for its aggressive manoeuvres, legalize its henchmen, especially the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique in Cambodia, and counter the powerful pressure of public opinion throughout the world and right in the United States for a speedy, total and unconditional withdrawal of the troops of the US and its henchmen from Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos.

It is evident that U Thant's suggestion only aided and abetted US imperialism and its henchmen in Indochina. They only benefit the US imperialists to the detriment of the legitimate effort of the peoples of the three countries—Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos—on the Indochinese peninsula.

Mr. Thant is apparently completely out of touch with the aspirations of the three Indochinese peoples as were already stated in the Joint Declaration of the Summit Conference on the Indochinese Peoples: "It (the conference) strongly condemns all attempts by the United States, its agents and other Asian reactionaries at misusing the name of the UNO or any organization or any international or Asian conference to legitimize the illegal power of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak reactionaries and to interfere in Cambodia."